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MORNING PAPERS .. THURSDAY, 24TH JULY, 1941.
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EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT - JUNE QUARTER, 1941.

The latest available statistics, from various sources, indicating the movement of Employment and Unemployment throughout Australia have been issued by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

Employment: The total numbers of persons in employment in Australia (inclusive of full time equivalent of relief workers but exclusive of members of defence forces) are estimated to be approximately as follows. The figures are preliminary estimates, subject to slight revision:-

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT (AUSTRALIA)

Total for six States
Average for Year 1938-39 - 2,126,000

<u>Month of</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>
July ..	2,120,000	2,172,000
August ..	2,125,000	2,183,000
September	2,135,000	2,207,000
October..	2,164,000	2,221,000
November	2,184,000	2,238,000
December	2,216,000	2,283,000
	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>
January..	2,175,000	2,241,000
February	2,183,000	2,253,000
March ..	2,193,000(a)	2,268,000
April ..	2,178,000(a)	2,263,000
May ..	2,157,000(a)	2,278,000
June ..	2,171,000	

(a) affected by dispute in coal mining industry.

The figures include considerable numbers who are not normally available as wage earners, but who work for wages only seasonally e.g. during December at Christmas shopping trade and between December and March in fruit canning etc. They include also considerable numbers whose work is seasonal in character (e.g. in the sugar industry, harvesting and shearing) and others whose employment is intermittent, e.g. waterside workers, building tradesmen etc. Since the early part of 1940 increasing numbers of persons who would not normally be available as wage earners have entered employment to fill vacancies occasioned by enlistments and by expansion of war work in industry.

Analysis of the Increase in Employment: Making due allowances for fluctuations in seasonal and intermittent work it is evident that the total number in employment in Australia has increased at an average rate of between 70,000 and 80,000 per year since the outbreak of war in September, 1939.

Of this total increase in employment, rather more than two-thirds has occurred in factories and rather less than one-third in other employment. Most of the increase in employment in factories has been on war work, both directly in Government munition factories and directly and indirectly on war contracts in private factories. The increase in numbers engaged on war work in factories, as distinct from civil production, cannot yet be stated but enquiries are being made.

Comparing the totals for August 1939 (the month before the war) with those of May, 1941 (the latest available) analysis of the increase is as follows (excluding members of defence forces):-

Total Employment (Six States).

<u>Heading</u>	<u>August 1939</u>	<u>May 1941</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Government Munition.			
Factories (a) ..	12,000	52,000	40,000
Private Factories(b)	534,000	605,000	71,000
Other Employment ..	1,579,000	1,621,000	42,000
TOTAL:	2,125,000	2,278,000	153,000

(a) Includes Government and quasi-Government munition, aircraft and shipbuilding establishments and annexes (Totals are not quite complete).

(b) Including private factories engaged on war contracts.

Unemployment: Estimates based on the National Register indicate that in July - August 1939 (immediately before the outbreak of war) there were approximately 263,000 wage-earners unemployed in Australia. It is estimated that of these approximately 40,000 were unemployed through illness, accident etc.; 118,000 were registered as unemployed at State Labour Exchanges and 105,000 others unemployed were not so registered.

Two major changes have occurred since that time:

- (a) the total number of wage-earners now employed in industry, enlisted in defence forces or remaining unemployed substantially exceeds the number who would normally have been available as wage-earners. The numbers of these additional wage-earners and the sources from which they have been derived cannot be estimated pending completion of investigations which are now in hand. It is believed, however, that they represent an increase of possibly 7 or 8 per cent. above the numbers of wage-earners normally available. As the war continues and more wage-earners are withdrawn from civil production for defence forces and for production of munitions etc., it is anticipated that this "reinforcement" of the numbers of wage-earners will continue to increase. Such a trend is not inconsistent with the continuance of a degree of unemployment among those who cannot readily find work or who cannot accept work owing to sickness or other disability.
- (b) the proportion of unemployed to total numbers normally available as wage-earners has decreased from 11.1 per cent. in July 1939 to approximately 5 per cent. in May, 1941. These relate to all causes including sickness and are dissected approximately as follows:-

Proportion of Wage-Earners Unemployed.

		<u>July, 1939</u>	<u>May, 1941</u>
		per cent.	per cent.
Registered unemployed	..	5.1	2.0
Other available unemployed	..	4.2	(1.2)(a)
Unemployed through sickness, accident etc.		1.8	1.8
<u>Total:</u>		<u>11.1</u>	<u>5.0(a)</u>

(a) The proportion of other available unemployed in May, 1941 is not accurately known but is relatively very small.

Exclusive of those unemployed through sickness, accident etc. the proportion of unemployed was 9.3 per cent. in July, 1939 and approximately 3.2 per cent. in May, 1941. Of the latter a considerable part consisted of unskilled workers, seasonal workers temporarily idle, and some who were not readily employable at any work.

(Excluding Working Proprietors)
(Base: Average for year 1928-29 = 100)

Period	New South Wales			Victoria			Queensland			South Australia			Western Australia			Tasmania			Australia				
																			Unad-justed Index	Index Divided by Index of Total Population			Persons Em- ployed
Number of Employees, 1928-29.	M.129,539 F. 44,581 T.174,120			M. 98,068 F. 51,198 T.149,266			M.35,581 F. 7,855 T.43,436			M.29,014 F. 6,362 T.35,376			M.16,039 F. 3,760 T.19,799			M.7,703 F.2,281 T.9,984			M.315,944 F.116,037 T.431,981	'000 432
Index for -	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	T.	M.	F.	T.	
1936-37	112	125	115	123	121	123	103	116	106	110	113	111	107	113	108	122	103	118	116.3	107.7	112.1	108.6	503
1937-38	121	134	124	131	126	130	112	123	114	120	121	121	110	116	111	130	108	125	124.3	114.9	117.3	115.0	538
1938-39	124	137	127	132	127	130	117	127	119	118	124	119	110	119	112	137	115	132	125.9	115.3	118.0	115.5	544
1939-40	128	143	131	139	134	137	120	132	122	120	136	123	107	123	110	144	126	140	131.0	118.5	122.7	119.0	566
1939 -																							
August ..	124	137	127	131	128	130	124	130	125	118	125	119	107	117	108	133	111	128	126.3	115.0	129.4	115.1	546
October..	128	143	131	137	132	135	126	137	128	117	131	120	107	124	110	139	112	133	130.5	118.3	122.2	118.7	564
November	130	145	133	140	134	138	123	137	126	117	134	120	108	127	111	144	116	138	132.2	119.7	136.1	120.2	571
December	131	145	134	141	132	138	119	133	121	121	134	124	109	128	112	146	117	140	132.5	120.3	122.8	120.3	573
1940 -																							
January..	130	140	132	140	132	137	110	125	113	121	138	124	107	122	110	151	120	144	130.7	118.9	120.5	118.7	565
February	130	145	133	141	138	140	111	131	115	121	143	125	108	123	111	154	134	149	132.6	119.5	125.5	120.3	573
March ..	131	150	(b)135	142	140	142	115	138	119	123	144	127	109	124	112	152	135	148	(b)134.5	120.6	128.4	(b)121.9	(b)581
April ..	128	148	(b)133	144	139	143	115	132	118	126	148	130	108	124	111	152	145	151	(b)134.0	120.3	127.3	(b)121.5	(b)579
May ..	124	146	(b)129	143	137	141	121	133	123	123	143	127	108	124	111	149	147	149	(b)132.3	119.0	125.4	(b)119.9	(b)572
June ..	130	146	133	142	135	139	126	130	126	121	141	124	106	123	110	147	150	147	133.4	121.1	123.9	120.9	577
July (a)			135			141			130			123			109			146	134.9			122.1	583
August ..			137			142			133			125			109			146	136.7			123.7	591
September			139			147			134			130			111			146	139.6			126.3	603
October..			140			149			132			133			111			145	141.1			127.7	610
November			142			152			131			137			113			145	142.9			129.4	617
December	(c)	(c)	145	(c)	(c)	155	(c)	(c)	126	(c)	(c)	144	(c)	(c)	114	(c)	(c)	151	145.7	(c)	(c)	132.0	630
1941 -																							
January..			143			152			117			147			113			158	143.1			129.6	618
February			145			155			122			152			116			156	146.2			132.4	631
March ..			149			156			127			159			117			156	149.4			135.3	645
April ..			149			156			127			159			117			155	149.2			135.1	645
May ..			151			159			135			162			118			158	152.1			137.8	657

(a) The annual and monthly indexes to June, 1940 are derived from complete totals. The monthly indexes from July, 1940 are derived from actual totals from practically all factories in New South Wales, from a complete record of munition factories in Victoria and South Australia plus a sample of other factories and from a sample representing approximately 45 per cent. of factory employees in Queensland, 49 per cent. in Western Australia and 55 per cent. in Tasmania. The Australian index is a weighted average. The index for Victoria is based on a small sample and is subject to amendment when fuller data are obtained. (b) Affected by stoppage in coal industry, New South Wales. (c) Not yet available.

MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL STORES

(Base: July, 1933 = 100)

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Australia	
							Unadjusted Index	Index Divided by Index of Total Population
Index for -								
1935-36 ..	118	130	109	114	110	112	119.4	117.3
1936-37 ..	124	137	111	115	115	119	124.7	121.5
1937-38 ..	130	141	112	115	116	118	128.3	124.0
1938-39 ..	132	142	114	114	116	133	130.0	124.4
1939-40 ..	132	144	117	112	115	139	130.9	124.2
1939 -								
July ..	133	138	116	110	119	138	129.4	123.2
August ..	129	137	114	109	114	134	126.8	120.6
September ..	129	137	114	112	111	133	126.6	120.3
October ..	130	141	114	109	111	135	128.1	121.8
November ..	133	147	117	111	113	139	131.6	124.9
December ..	148	165	131	127	125	154	147.8	140.1
1940 -								
January ..	132	144	117	111	118	144	130.9	124.1
February ..	135	139	114	110	115	138	130.0	123.2
March ..	131	140	114	110	116	137	128.6	121.8
April ..	129	144	116	111	115	137	129.5	122.5
May ..	130	145	116	111	114	139	130.4	123.5
June ..	130	149	116	111	114	138	131.1	124.1
July ..	131	142	116	110	116	138	129.6	122.6
August ..	130	140	114	111	112	137	128.3	121.3
September ..	129	142	113	111	113	137	128.4	121.4
October ..	130	143	113	111	110	138	128.9	121.8
November ..	134	148	117	117	113	139	133.0	125.7
December ..	152	174	131	127	122	152	151.3	143.1
1941 -								
January ..	131	141	116	116	116	141	130.0	123.0
February ..	135	145	116	111	112	136	131.6	124.5
March ..	132	144	116	110	110	135	130.3	123.3
April ..	133	146	114	111	109	135	130.8	123.8
May ..	134	147	115	114	110	135	131.9	124.8
Number of Establishments now furnishing returns	599	102	120	35	69	14	939	939

/NEW

NEW SOUTH WALES - EMPLOYMENT.

The following table, compiled by the Government Statistician of New South Wales, shows the approximate number of persons employed in the middle week of the months specified.

Period	Total Employed in -						Number Employed by Employers with 10 or more Employees in-	
	All Employment (a)	Private Employment	Factories	Retail Shops (including Restaurants)	Wholesale Trade	Mining	Transport (excluding Railways and Tramways)	Offices and Commerce
<u>Average -</u>								
1937-38 ..	828,750	679,369	217,300	81,200	27,438	22,347	20,841	26,150
1938-39 ..	837,133	686,569	221,100	82,450	28,159	23,305	20,847	27,186
1939-40 ..	850,663	698,255	229,400	82,782	28,388	23,500	21,354	28,518
1939 - August	831,806	680,300	221,100	80,570	27,962	24,033	20,695	27,060
1940 - May ..	(c)837,120	(c)682,538	226,100	81,537	28,305	(c)22,852	21,188	28,028
June ..	856,296	700,155	233,200	81,259	28,458	23,771	22,358	28,714
July ..	863,962	708,294	236,700	82,030	28,480	23,873	21,572	28,100
August	870,326	714,688	240,700	81,426	28,516	23,766	21,430	29,100
September	874,076	719,777	243,000	80,881	28,460	23,903	21,857	29,246
October	879,881	724,971	246,300	81,224	28,413	24,016	21,265	30,051
November	883,378	728,178	249,100	83,741	28,630	23,999	19,591	30,452
December	905,041	749,122	254,700	95,008	28,959	24,111	22,023	29,680
1941 - January	883,911	727,512	250,800	81,838	28,214	23,303	21,970	29,588
February	893,645	735,696	255,200	84,237	28,603	23,689	21,037	29,798
March ..	902,735	742,036	262,200	82,658	29,020	23,800	20,654	29,523
April ..	902,116	740,704	261,600	83,067	29,227	23,631	20,716	28,910
May (b)	906,567	743,586	264,600	83,678	29,356	23,750	22,611	29,177

(a) Excluding Rationed Relief Workers. (b) For September, 1939, and subsequent months the figures exclude men in the Forces who were not on pay-sheets of private employers. (c) Affected by an industrial dispute.

EMPLOYMENT IN QUEENSLAND.

The figures in the following table have been compiled by the Director of the Bureau of Industry of Queensland from census results, unemployed insurance contributions, workers' compensation records, and shop and factory returns.

QUEENSLAND - EMPLOYMENT.

Period	Numbers in Work			
	Employers and Workers on Own Account	Employees	Working for No Wages	Total
<u>Average -</u> 1937-38 ..	103,000	245,800	10,300	359,100
1938-39 ..	105,100	257,700	10,500	373,300
1939-40 ..	106,800	264,500	10,600	381,900
<u>Three Months ended -</u>				
May, 1940 ..	107,100	265,800	10,600	383,500
June, " ..	107,000	267,500	10,700	385,200
July, " ..	106,800	265,100	10,700	382,600
August, " ..	106,700	262,800	10,700	380,200
September, " ..	106,700	262,200	10,700	379,600
October, " ..	106,800	263,000	10,700	380,500
November, " ..	106,900	263,700	10,800	381,400
December, " ..	107,100	262,900	10,800	380,800
January, 1941 ..	107,200	265,700	10,900	383,800
February, " ..	107,300	264,000	10,900	382,200
March, " ..	107,400	264,900	10,900	383,200
April, " ..	107,400	264,900	11,000	383,300
May, " ..	107,400	266,200	11,000	384,600

NOTES.

1. The figures for each month are averages for three-monthly periods ending in the month shown and have been corrected for seasonal variation.
2. Enlisted men have been excluded from the estimates of employment, and adjustments have been made to allow for the effect on employment of home-defence training.
3. The figures shown above are not comparable with those shown for other States as they exclude some persons who were recorded as breadwinners at the 1933 Census.

TASMANIA : EMPLOYMENT

The following table compiled from the wages tax returns of private employers in respect of their employees, whether subject to or not subject to tax, and from returns of Commonwealth, State and Local Government employment, gives the best measure available of the course of total employment in Tasmania. From July, 1940, total employment in private industry is estimated from monthly figures collected by the Deputy Statistician and not from wages tax returns.

Period	Private Industry			Public Authorities			Total Employment Public and Private		
	Males	Fe- males	Total	Males	Fe- males	Total	Males	Fe- males	Total
1937-38	34,001	10,685	44,686	10,581	1,825	12,406	44,582	12,510	57,092
1938-39	37,933	12,184	50,117	10,488	1,879	12,367	48,421	14,063	62,484
1939-40(a)	39,659	13,151	52,810	10,725	1,972	12,697	50,384	15,123	65,507
1939-40 -	(a)	(a)	(a)				(a)	(a)	(a)
August ..	37,442	11,823	49,265	10,317	1,958	12,275	47,759	13,781	61,540
October ..	38,210	11,872	50,082	10,665	1,948	12,613	48,875	13,820	62,695
November ..	38,966	12,334	51,300	10,672	1,963	12,635	49,638	14,297	63,935
December ..	40,082	13,341	53,423	10,960	1,955	12,915	51,042	15,296	66,338
January ..	41,951	13,904	55,855	10,828	1,865	12,693	52,779	15,769	68,548
February ..	41,676	13,230	54,906	11,051	1,993	13,044	52,727	15,223	67,950
March ..	42,088	14,918	57,006	11,097	1,999	13,096	53,185	16,917	70,102
April ..	40,792	14,541	55,333	11,060	2,039	13,099	51,852	16,580	68,432
May ..	41,048	14,359	55,407	11,035	2,019	13,054	52,083	16,378	68,461
June ..	39,012	13,883	52,895	10,531	2,024	12,555	49,543	15,907	65,450
1940-41 -									
July ..	37,987	13,956	51,943	10,187	2,069	12,256	48,174	16,025	64,199
August ..	38,402	13,989	52,300	9,881	2,078	11,959	48,283	15,976	64,259
September ..	39,204	14,624	53,828	9,878	2,116	11,994	49,082	16,740	65,822
October ..	39,807	13,996	53,803	9,977	2,099	12,076	49,784	16,095	65,879
November ..	40,064	13,975	54,039	9,678	2,100	11,778	49,742	16,075	65,817
December ..	40,446	14,974	55,420	10,147	2,124	12,271	50,593	17,098	67,691
January ..	42,512	15,985	58,497	9,896	2,041	11,937	52,408	18,026	70,434
February ..	41,354	14,118	55,472	9,889	2,159	12,048	51,243	16,277	67,520
March ..	41,650	16,264	57,914	9,978	2,144	12,122	51,628	18,408	70,036
April ..	40,827	15,496	56,323	10,075	2,317	12,392	50,902	17,813	68,715
May ..	40,198	15,452	55,650	10,300	2,254	12,554	50,498	17,706	68,204

(a) Subject to revision.

NOTES

1. For 1938-39 and previous years the figures in the table may be regarded as a virtually complete record of total employment based on final collected figures. They are a combination of monthly figures received currently and annually, covering both private and public employment. They are deficient only to the inappreciable extent that some relief and other intermittent workers and domestic workers in private homes are not covered by the monthly returns. On the other hand, to the extent that they embrace the majority of workers subject to intermittent employment over the whole year, they reflect fully the seasonal and all other influences upon employment in Tasmania.

2. As from July, 1939, the number of employees of public authorities is completely recorded, but the number of employees in private industry is estimated on the basis of returns covering about 44 per cent. of private employment. Extensive returns of other private employment have been collected for each month of 1939-40, and figures from July, 1939, are subject to revision on the basis of these.

/TRADE

TRADE UNIONS : PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS REPORTED AS UNEMPLOYED.

The percentages of unemployment among members of reporting Trade Unions according to returns supplied by Secretaries of Unions are given below. Comparisons of quarterly averages over the past two years and of previous high and low figures since 1911 are as follow :-

AUSTRALIA.

		<u>Per Cent.</u>			<u>Per Cent.</u>
1911	December Quarter	4.7	1939	March Quarter	9.6
1912	" "	5.6		June "	9.5
1913	" "	5.3		September "	10.2
				December "	9.3
1919	December Quarter	5.2			
1932	June Quarter	30.0	1940	March Quarter	7.9
1936	" "	12.8		June "	10.5(a)
1937	" "	9.7		September "	7.4
1938	" "	8.6		December "	6.2
			1941	March Quarter	5.3
				June "	3.6

The figures refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest quarterly figures referred to herein relate to the middle of May, 1941.

AUSTRALIA.

Number and Membership of Trade Unions Reporting and Number and Percentage of Unemployed - March quarter, 1929 to June quarter, 1941.

Australia	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	June Quarter 1940(a)	Sep- tember Quarter 1940	De- cember Quarter 1940	March Quarter 1941	June Quarter 1941
Number of Unions ..	375	396	394	388	397	396	398	395
Membership ..	420,304	413,272	415,059	475,815	496,872	508,914	514,379	517,696
Unemployed -								
Number ..	39,159	123,948	106,502	49,775	36,892	31,491	27,289	18,595
Percentage ..	9.3	30.0	25.7	10.5	7.4	6.2	5.3	3.6

Although the unions reporting are not identical in successive quarters and the numbers vary slightly, it is evident that there has been a substantial increase in membership concurrently with the decrease in numbers reported as unemployed. The returns relate to unions which embrace between 20 per cent. and 25 per cent. of wage earners, and for some States these constitute a more representative sample than for others. The table which follows, therefore, should not be read as indicating the relative degree of unemployment among unionists in the individual States but as an indication of trend of unemployment among such unionists from quarter to quarter as reported by Secretaries of Trade Unions.

STATES.

Percentage of Members of Trade Unions Reported as Unemployed in each State - March quarter, 1929 to June quarter, 1941.

State	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	June Quarter 1940	Sep- tember Quarter 1940	De- cember Quarter 1940	March Quarter 1941	June Quarter 1941
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales ..	9.7	33.2	29.6	15.9(a)	9.8	8.5	7.0	4.5
Victoria ..	8.6	27.7	23.0	6.6	5.9	4.3	3.2	2.4
Queensland ..	7.1	19.9	15.6	6.8	4.9	4.5	5.9	4.2
South Australia ..	13.2	35.2	30.0	8.3	6.6	4.7	3.9	2.8
Western Australia ..	8.5	30.3	26.0	5.6	6.0	4.0	4.3	3.1
Tasmania ..	10.9	27.5	18.4	5.0	4.6	6.5	3.6	2.4
<u>AUSTRALIA:</u>	9.3	30.0	25.7	10.5(a)	7.4	6.2	5.3	3.6

(a) In June quarter, 1940, coalmining employees out of work owing to the industrial dispute were excluded from the tabulation, but persons in other industries indirectly unemployed owing to the dispute were included.

S. R. CARVER
Acting Commonwealth Statistician.